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Letter dated 25 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address Your Excellency to make reference to the high-level briefing of the Security Council to be held on 26 September 2018 under the agenda item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction".

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit herewith, on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement, the positions of the Movement on this important subject, as renewed as recently as April 2018, during the 18th midterm ministerial meeting of the Movement, held in Baku (see annex).*

Moreover, I respectfully request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council distributed among its members.

I trust that this contribution by the Non-Aligned Movement will enrich the deliberations of the Security Council on this issue.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Excerpts from the section on "Disarmament and International Security", select paragraphs relating to "Maintenance of international peace and security: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction", as included in the Final Document adopted during the 18th mid-term ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Baku on 6 April 2018

"201. The Ministers *reiterated* their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, they called for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

202. The Ministers *expressed* their deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. They reiterated further their deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. They stressed the need to address this issue in the context of the efforts aimed at the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world and in this regard, they noted continuing relevant international efforts, including the three International Conferences on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, held respectively in Norway in 2013, in Mexico in 2014 and in Vienna in 2014, and the important role of the humanitarian initiative in promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They *reiterated* the call in General Assembly Resolution 72/251 for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

203. Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Ministers *reiterated* their determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 72/48 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

204. The Ministers *reiterated* their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and in this context, underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

205. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons sand of their possible use or threat of use.

206. The Ministers *reiterated* their deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance

with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. They *called upon* the NWS to fulfill their multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament and to implement the unequivocal undertaking they provided in 2000 and further reiterated in 2010 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They *emphasized*, in this regard, the urgent need to commence and to bring to a conclusion negotiations on comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without any further delay.

207. The Ministers *acknowledged the* significant contribution towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament made by NAM Member and Observer States, including through the voluntary renunciation of the possession of nuclear weapons by Belarus, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Ukraine;

208. The Ministers, while noting the statements by NWS of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, *reaffirmed* the need for urgent concrete actions by the NWS to achieve this goal in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by NWS in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations.

209. The Ministers *remained* deeply concerned at the strategic defense doctrines of the NWS, including the "NATO Alliance Strategic Concept", which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies. They therefore *strongly called upon* them to exclude completely the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military and security doctrines.

210. The Ministers *reiterated*, with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. They *stressed* once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conferences by the NWS.

211. The Ministers *welcomed* the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, they *took note* of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. It is hoped that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

212. The Ministers *emphasized* that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They *reaffirmed* that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security. Nevertheless, they *stressed* that nuclear disarmament, as the

highest priority established by SSOD-I and as a multilateral legal obligation, should not be made conditional on confidence building measures or other disarmament efforts.

213. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance and the relevance of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialized, deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery and reiterated their full support for its work. They commended the UNDC for the successful adoption of the consensus recommendations on "Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Weapons" by the Commission in 2017. They *expressed* regret that since 2000 the UNDC was unable to reach agreement on the "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" due to the lack of political will and inflexible positions of some Nuclear-Weapons States, despite NAM's constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations. They further *called upon* UN Member States to display the necessary political will and flexibility, in order to enable the Commission to agree on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" in its current cycle.

214. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated their call to the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. They *emphasized* the necessity to start negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, without further delay, on further effective nuclear disarmament measures, in particular a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

215. The Ministers *expressed* their appreciation for the efforts undertaken, in particular by those representatives of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement who served as the Presidents of the CD for the commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations. They noted the various proposals on the program of Work of the CD as contained in the documents CD/1864, a decision adopted by CD on 29 May 2009 but not implemented, CD/1933/Rev.1, CD/1952, and CD/1955 which were presented successively by Algeria, Egypt, Iran and Iraq between 2009 to 2013 sessions. They called on the CD to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work without any further delay taking into account the security interests of all States. In this regard, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the importance of the principle contained in the final document of the SSOD-I that "The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage". They agreed to continue coordination of efforts at the NAM Chapter in Geneva.

216. The Ministers *called* for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. They further *called* for urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

218. The Ministers *welcomed* UN annual meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September since 2014, as outlined in resolution 68/32. They *invited* Member States, the UN system and the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to

commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities. They also *expressed* their commitment to work together with the objective that the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons becomes one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons, the necessity for their total elimination and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.

219. Moreover, the Ministers *underlined* the importance of UNGA resolutions 68/32, 69/58, 70/34, 71/71 and 72/251 as a roadmap on nuclear disarmament and accordingly stressed the need for an active participation of NAM Member States in all activities related to their implementation, including enhancing public awareness and education on this issue. They commended all efforts aiming at promoting the implementation of these resolutions, including those undertaken by the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament and the NAM Chapter in Vienna.

220. The Ministers *called* for further international, regional and national efforts aimed at advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they noted with appreciation the efforts of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and also noted the adoption of a "Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament" at its Second Summit, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 January 2014, a "Special Declaration on the Urgent Need for a Nuclear Weapon Free World" at its Third Summit, held in Belen, Costa Rica, on 27 and 28 January 2015, a "Special Declaration on the commitment to advance in the multilateral negotiations on Nuclear Disarmament", at its Fourth Summit, held in Quito, Ecuador, on 27 January 2016, and further noted the adoption of a "Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament" at its Fifth Summit, held in the Dominican Republic, on 25 January 2017.

223. The Ministers *reaffirmed* that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *called for* the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all NNWS by all the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances as a matter of high priority. They *expressed* concern that despite long standing requests by NNWS to receive such legally binding universal assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard.

224. The Ministers *stressed* the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. They *reiterated* that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential. In this context, the ratification of the CTBT by Myanmar and Swaziland was welcomed.

225. The Ministers *recalled* the commitments made towards the full implementation of the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the need for follow-up measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals. They *stressed* that reductions in deployments and in operational status, although they may contribute to risk reduction, cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. In this context, they *called on* the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to such cuts, to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, thus contributing to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and facilitating the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons at the earliest date.

226. The Ministers *took note of* the successful completion of the commitments, by the Russian Federation and the United States, under the New START treaty, and *called* for the renewal of the commitments agreed within the framework of said Treaty. Nonetheless, they *expressed* their grave concern over the US Nuclear Posture Review and its National Security Strategy, which goes against legal obligations and undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and threatens international peace and security.

227. The Ministers *continued* to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brought new challenges to international peace and stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They *remained* seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of the deployment of strategic missile defense systems which could trigger an arms race(s) and lead to the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

228. The Ministers *recognized* the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes, and reconfirmed their stand to oppose and reject any act denying or violating it and *emphasized* that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. They further *emphasized* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space. They also *reemphasized* the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD, inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking note of the joint Russian- Chinese initiative of a draft treaty on the "Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects" (PPWT) presented in the Conference on Disarmament on 12 February 2008 and in 2014. They *noted* that this initiative is a constructive contribution to the work of the Conference, and is a good basis for further discussion toward adopting an international legally-binding instrument. In this context, they *noted* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/27 on no first emplacement of weapons in outer space with a view to ensuring its exclusive peaceful use. They also *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/250 on "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space", which calls for the establishment of a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. They further urged all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. They *called for* the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

231. The Ministers *remained convinced* of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security. They expressed their support for efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this regard, they *emphasized* the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies, including space launch vehicle

technologies, to human advancement, such as for telecommunications and data gathering on natural disasters. They also *emphasized* the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and *welcomed* that the Panel of Governmental Experts established in accordance with Resolution 59/67 successfully concluded its work in 2008 and submitted its report to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. While welcoming the consensus adoption of the UNGA decision 69/517 on "Missiles", they encouraged follow up efforts to further examine the elements contained in the conclusions of the Secretary-General's Report A/63/176. Pending the achievement of such a universal approach related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, any initiative to address these concerns effectively and in a sustainable and comprehensive manner should be through an inclusive process of negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals. They *stressed* the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

232. The Ministers *believed* that the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty as well as Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. They *reiterated* that in the context of NWFZs, it is essential that NWS should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. They *urged* States to conclude agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned with a view to establishing new NWFZs in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and the Principles and Guidelines adopted by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. They also *called upon* all the nuclear-weapon States to ratify related protocols to all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, withdraw any reservations or interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose, and respect the denuclearization status of these zones.

233. The Ministers *welcomed* the anniversaries of all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. In this regard, they welcomed the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in the world, and *recognized* its contributions to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation. Similarly, they *welcomed* the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) on 27 March 2017, and recognized the importance of its full and effective implementation to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

234. The Ministers *welcomed* the 25th Anniversary of the declaration of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status on 25 September 2017 and commended Mongolia's efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons. They also *recalled* the convening of the Third Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Established Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia held in New York, on 24 April 2015, the Ministers *called* on the States parties and signatories to those Treaties to implement further ways and means of co-operation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States. They *expressed* their support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and its policy aimed at institutionalizing that status.

235. The Ministers *reiterated* their full support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a priority step to this end, they *reaffirmed* the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the

relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfillment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone. Pending its establishment, they *demanded* on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They called for the earliest implementation of relevant IAEA resolutions on "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". They *expressed* great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and *condemned* Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. In this context they also *condemned* the statement made by the then Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. They *urged* the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA, including at the General Conference. They were of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region. They also *called for* the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they *expressed* their serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one NWS. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

236. The Ministers *took* into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29 December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They *welcomed* the initiative presented in 1990 by the Arab Republic of Egypt on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and its initiative presented before the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 28th September 2013 containing implementation steps in support of the establishment of the Zone. They also *stressed* that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East. They *took note* with appreciation of the letters sent, in 2013 and 2014, to the United Nations Secretary-General, renewing the support for the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, reflected in the note A/68/781 by the Secretary-General, by: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

237. The Ministers *reiterated* their support for the efforts of the Arab Group in Vienna to keep the question of the Israeli nuclear capabilities under consideration of the General Conference of the IAEA.

238. The Ministers *underscored* the Movement's principled position concerning non-use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State. In this regard, they *condemned* the Israeli attack against a Syrian facility on September 6, 2007, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and *welcomed* Syria's cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

241. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), while *reaffirming* the package of agreements of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT, and recognizing the crucial role of the NPT in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non- proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, were of the view that the "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, represent an outcome that can be built upon and further enhanced in the near future, to fully address the priorities of the Movement, in particular to realize a world free from nuclear weapons. They *called upon* NWS to implement fully and effectively their obligations under the Treaty, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, and the outcomes of its Review Conferences, in particular the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

242. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *stressed* the importance of the review of the operation of the Treaty in the framework of the NPT Review Conferences and in this context *emphasized* that the inclusion of the Review Part of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference as an opinion of the President and not as a consensus language should not be considered as a precedent to be followed in the future without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Review Conference.

243. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* the importance of the full implementation of the action plans adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, on nuclear non-proliferation, on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. They *expressed concern* at the lack of agreement on a number of key priorities of NAM States Parties to the NPT and *agreed* to continue their collective efforts in pursuing the realization of their priorities at the NPT Review Conferences.

244. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of a detailed plan of action on "the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East" in the "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

245. While *expressing deep concern* over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT strongly urged the United Nations Secretary-General and the three cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to fully implement it, without any further delay, to achieve on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Recalling the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, a Conference on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, they expressed their profound disappointment and serious concern that the conference was not convened in 2012 as scheduled. They *underscored* that the failure to convene the Conference is contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and contradicts and violates the collective agreement of the States Parties contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. They *strongly rejected* the arguments presented by the Conveners for not convening the Conference on schedule.

246. NAM States Parties to the NPT *expressed* their disappointment that as a result of the opposition by the US UK and Canada at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, consensus on measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was not achieved. They further underscored that efforts related to the establishment

of the Zone should be undertaken in accordance with the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as the relevant United Nations Resolutions. The Ministers *reiterated* in this regard the common position of the NAM States Parties to the NPT as reflected in working paper NPT/CONF.2015/WP.49 presented at the 2015 Review Conference, and *called* for concrete and urgent steps for its implementation;

247. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* their call for the firm commitment by all States Parties to the Treaty to the full and indiscriminate implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty. They further called for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *underlined* the agreement by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, which reaffirmed the previous agreements, on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and on providing effective, unconditional and non-discriminatory universal legally binding security assurances to all NNWS parties to the Treaty, which would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

248. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *called upon* the NWS to fully comply with their commitments not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against NNWS parties to the Treaty or NWFZs at any time or under any circumstances, pending the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances.

249. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. They continued to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. They again *emphasized* that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued sustainable development. They *expressed* their full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and *strongly rejected* any politically motivated attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical co-operation programme, in violation of its Statute, as well as any pressure or interference in the Agency's activities which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the IAEA and the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

250. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the NPT *emphasized* once more that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty. They *stressed* that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. In this connection, they *confirmed* that each country's choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

251. The Ministers *stressed* the need for the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in developing countries, which contributes to the attainment of their respective national sustainable development goals, and the full

respect for their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They *underlined* particularly the responsibility of developed countries to facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, the transfer, to developing countries, of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes. They also encouraged the IAEA to continue supporting developing countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular through its technical cooperation programme, which is essential for the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

252. The Ministers *recalled* the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/Eu+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015 adopted by Security Council resolution 2231. The Ministers *called for* its full implementation by all its participants and *underlined* that this agreement showed once again that dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues, as the Movement has always advocated.

253. The Ministers *took note* of the adoption, through a vote, in 2010 and 2011, by the IAEA Board of Governors, of three proposals of assurance of supply mechanisms in the framework of the multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. They *highlighted* that this issue should be conducted through wide, integral and transparent consultations and negotiations, focusing on its technical, legal, political and economic implications, before any further decision is taken about this complex and sensitive matter. They *emphasized* that decisions should be made by consensus, with the participation of all IAEA member States, and any proposal from IAEA must be consistent with its Statute, without any prejudice to the inalienable right of its member States to research, develop and use for peaceful purposes of nuclear sciences, in all its aspects, including the inalienable right of each State Party, if it so decides, to develop, for peaceful purposes, a full national nuclear fuel cycle in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

254. The Ministers, *emphasizing* the importance of the positive role played by the Non-Aligned Members in the IAEA, *stressed* the necessity that all members of the IAEA strictly observe its Statute. They *stressed* that any pressure or interference in the Agency's verification process, which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the Agency, should be avoided. They *recognized* that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States. They also *reaffirmed* that a clear distinction has to be made between the legal obligations of Member States under their respective safeguards agreements and their voluntary undertakings, in order to ensure that such voluntary undertakings are not turned into legal safeguards obligations. Bearing in mind the Agency's responsibility in protecting safeguards' confidential information and given the undesirable incidents of leakage of such information, they *emphasized* the need for strengthening the regime for the protection of safeguards confidential information.

255. The Ministers *reaffirmed* the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities - operational or under construction- poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. They *recognized* the urgent need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

256. The Ministers *affirmed* the need to strengthen the Radiological Safety and Protection Systems at facilities utilizing radioactive materials as well as at radioactive waste management facilities, including the safe transportation of these materials. They *reaffirmed* the need to further strengthen existing international regulations relating to safety and security of transportation of such materials. They noted the efforts of the IAEA in this regard, including through the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety which was unanimously endorsed by the IAEA General Conference. While *reiterating* the need to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes, they called for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive waste on their territories.

257. The Ministers *recognized* that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with the individual States. In that sense, they *underlined* that States with nuclear power programs have a central role in their own countries in ensuring the application of the highest standards of nuclear safety and the responsibility for providing a timely, transparent and adequate response to nuclear accidents in order to minimize their consequences. They *stressed* the need for a rapid, timely, continuous, reliable and transparent dissemination of information on nuclear accidents with significant trans-boundary radiological effects in accordance with relevant international conventions.

258. The Ministers *emphasized* the need to improve national, regional and international preparedness and response to nuclear accidents and called for a strengthened role of the IAEA in emergency preparedness and response, including through assisting Member States, upon their request, on emergency preparedness and response to nuclear accidents, promoting capacity building, including education and training in the field of crisis management.

259. The Ministers *emphasized* that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

260. The Ministers *emphasized* that the IAEA is the sole inter-governmental organization within the UN system with the mandate and expertise to deal with the technical subjects of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

261. The Ministers *stressed* that the issues related to proliferation, should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the framework of international law, relevant conventions and the UN Charter, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, and security.

262. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) *reaffirmed* that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. They *recognized* the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through the resumption of the multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, including through verification measures bearing in mind that the lack of such verification regime poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention, and urged the party rejecting negotiations to reconsider its policy. They *expressed* satisfaction that currently 180 States are Parties to the Convention, and also *stressed* the importance of universal adherence to the Convention and, in this context, welcomed the recent accession of Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Guinea, Liberia, Nepal, State of

Palestine, and Vanuatu to the Convention. They *reiterated* their call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific-technical exchange. They *underlined* the importance to maintain close coordination among the NAM States Parties to the Convention and highlighted that the BTWC forms a whole and that, although it is possible to consider certain aspects separately, it is critical to deal with all of the issues interrelated to this Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

263. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to BTWC *welcomed* the active participation by NAM States Parties in the 8th BTWC Review Conference and the BTWC Meeting of States Parties (MSP), held respectively from 07–25 November 2016 and 04–08 December 2017, in Switzerland, to advance their positions in this Convention. They welcomed the consensus outcome adopted at the 2017 MSP under the able Chairmanship of India. They *reaffirmed* the importance of strengthening the full effective and balanced implementation of all articles of the convention and, in this regard, *reiterated* their commitment to work in the inter-sessional period, in particular on Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under article X, review of developments in the field of S and T related to the convention, strengthening national implementation, assistance, response and preparedness, and institutional strengthening of the convention.

264. They also *welcomed* their key role in the adoption of the important decisions related to the implementation of Article X of the BTWC, especially by emphasizing the need for enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, bearing in mind the Action Plan on the implementation of Article X submitted by the NAM States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, and the additional NAM States Parties' proposal on an institutional mechanism for international cooperation and compliance with Article X presented more recently. They further *encouraged* the BTWC States Parties to implement the Article X, as set forth in the Final Documents of the seventh and eighth BTWC Review Conferences. They *reiterated* the importance to strengthen the operationalization of cooperation database which was established by the Seventh Review Conference to ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of cooperation under Article X are provided by States Parties in the database and to consider the ways to improve reporting on this issue, taking into account the current lack of effectiveness of the referred database and welcomed the VIII Review Conference decision regarding the maintenance of a Sponsorship Programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the inter-sessional programme in the framework of the BTWC.

265. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the BTWC *emphasized* the importance of the BTWC role in the international legal architecture related to WMD and in particular in the total prohibition on all biological and toxin weapons. They further *emphasized* the need for enhancing, without restrictions, international cooperation and assistance and exchanges in toxic biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination, in conformity with the Convention. They *reaffirmed* that the respective mandates of this Convention and other international organizations should be respected, while utilizing the experiences of the relevant multilateral organizations dealing with human and animal health on issues that are of direct relevance to the Convention, and that no actions should be taken to undermine the convention and/or interfere with its mandate.

266. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) *welcomed* the successful conclusion of its Third Review Conference. They reiterated that a transparent, holistic and balanced approach shall prevail in follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Third Review Conference, and encouraged

the continuation of discussions aimed at drafting a document on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, with a view for it to be considered during the Fourth Review Conference. They *invited* all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible with a view to its universality. They *reaffirmed* that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context also encouraged all States Parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention. They *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under CWC. They *reiterated* their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They *recalled* that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose. They also *reaffirmed* the need to respect the principles included in the Convention, and called upon States parties to the CWC to avoid the polarization and politicization of the work of the Organization, while encouraging States Parties to continue working cooperatively in the interest of consensus.

267. The Ministers of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* those States that have successfully destroyed all declared Category 1 Chemical Weapons. They further welcomed that, upon completion of the destruction of the remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons in Libya, on 23 November 2017, the total amount of destroyed Category 2 Chemical Weapons has reached 100%. They *expressed* their serious concern that certain possessor States parties did not meet their obligations regarding the deadlines for the total elimination of chemical weapons and that nearly 4% of declared chemical weapons still remained to be destroyed as of 31 October 2017. They therefore *urged* the remaining possessor State Party to take every necessary measure to ensure its compliance with its "Detailed plan for the destruction of Chemical Weapons remaining after the final extended destruction deadline of 29 April 2012", in the shortest time possible, in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

268. The Ministers of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *underlined* that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms and standards of the international community. They *acknowledged* the total elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons and the constructive cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. They also *commend* the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic in implementing the relevant Executive Council of the OPCW decisions, in particular decisions taken by Executive Council with regard to destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities.

269. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC *reaffirmed* that the implementation of the Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons make a significant contribution to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons. They *stressed* the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely and needed assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons. They *highlighted* the need for all States Parties, particularly those in a position to do so, to contribute to the Voluntary Fund of

Assistance to ensure that the capacity of the Technical Secretariat is able to provide, upon the request of States Parties, timely, adequate and effective assistance, with a view to responding to the growing demands from States Parties.

270. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* the decision on Components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI adopted at the 16th Conference of the States Parties to the CWC and *considered* it as a positive step towards achieving the goal of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. They *attached* high importance to the adoption of a Plan of Action for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI. They *welcomed* the proposal of the Action Plan of Article XI presented by the NAM CWC States and China, which is currently being discussed at the OPCW. They *looked forward* to the continuation of Article XI consultations with a view to further deliberate the Document of the facilitators as soon as possible for negotiations by delegations in order to adopt a decision in this regard. They *welcomed* the holding of the annual review and evaluation workshop of the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of article XI and *stressed* the importance of the active participation of States Parties in the annual workshops. In this context, and taking into account the importance of adopting an Action Plan for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, they considered that States Parties to the CWC should present concrete recommendations and proposals before the Fourth Review Conference. To that end, they *called upon* NAM States Parties to the CWC to continue engaging in discussions towards this end, within the framework of the NAM Chapter in The Hague.

271. The Ministers of NAM States Parties to the CWC, while paying due respect to the chemical weapons victims and their families, *declared* their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need and that the States Parties to the Convention as well as the OPCW should pay urgent attention to meeting these needs. In this context, they *welcomed* the decision adopted at the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to establish an International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose. In this regard, they *expressed* their appreciation to States Parties for their contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons, and encouraged all States Parties to consider actively contributing to the Trust Fund.

272. The Ministers once again *condemned* the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip in 2009 and July and August 2014 and the occupying power's indiscriminate shelling and bombing of Palestinian civilian areas and *expressed* their grave concern over the reported use in civilian areas of harmful and potentially fatal incendiary weapons, such as white phosphorous. In this regard, they *reiterated* their call for a thorough investigation of this serious matter by relevant bodies under the appropriate international conventions and agreements.

273. The Ministers *regretted* unsubstantiated allegations of non-compliance with relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction and *called on* States Parties to such instruments that make such allegations to follow procedures set out in those instruments and to provide necessary substantiation for their allegations. They *called upon* all States Parties to the respective international instruments to implement fully and in a transparent manner all their obligations under these instruments.

274. The Ministers *expressed* their satisfaction with the consensus among States on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. They *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution 72/42 entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction"

and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the UN framework and through international co-operation. While *stressing* that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, they *emphasized* that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They *called upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They also *urged* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

275. While *noting* the adoption of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), 2055 (2012) and 2325 (2016) by the Security Council, the Ministers *underlined* the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. They further *cautioned* against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions. In this regard, they *stressed* the importance of the issue of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction to be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, *taking into account* the views of all Member States.

276. Mindful of the threat posed to humankind by the existing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and underlining the need for the total elimination of such weapons, the Ministers *reaffirmed* the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and therefore *supported* the necessity of monitoring the situation and triggering international action as required. In this regard, the Ministers *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 72/23 entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

277. The Ministers, while staying committed to the cause of prohibiting the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction, *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/23 "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament", adopted on December 4, 2017, *reiterated* the adherence of their countries to and *called* on the international community to abide by the goals and principles set out therein."